

# the **IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF** hoodie



**A line with a slope of -8 passes through the points (9, 8) and (10, y). What is the value of y?**

Sample Math  
Competition problem

## Your mission: attend ISD camps!



Complete a secret mission.  
Create your own game.  
Develop confidence in playing football or volleyball.

Register now for these four Iowa School for the Deaf camp themes!

### June and July dates

- Overnight or days
- \$50/week for Iowa residents
- Many mainstream students attend.
- All communication preferences welcome.

Details at [iowaschoolforthe deaf.org](http://iowaschoolforthe deaf.org)– tap the camps slider or email [boreilly@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org](mailto:boreilly@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org).

## Middle school solves big problems ISD Math Whizzes compete in New York

“It’s not easy, but I understand it.” Eighth grader Kali Nipper’s confident statement about her preparation for a math competition gained a head nod from one teammate; a shoulder shrug from another.

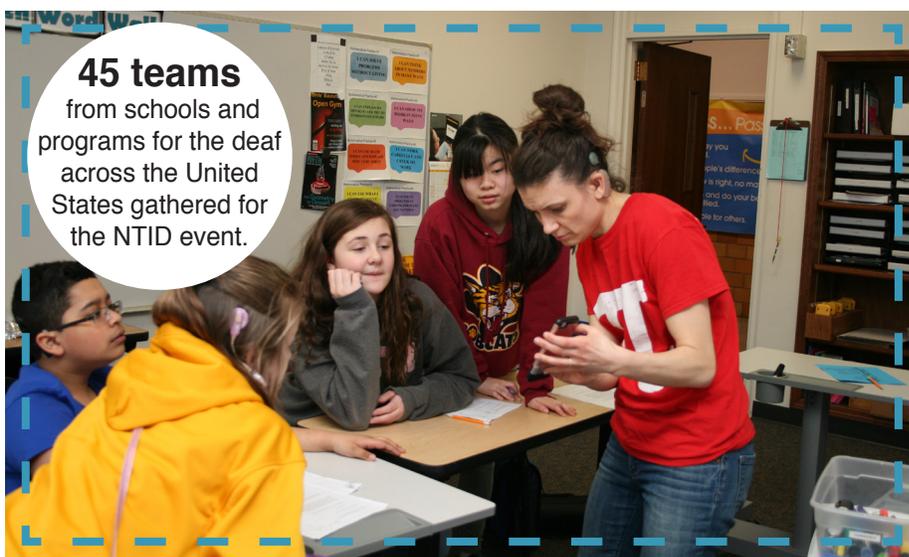
“I’m nervous,” said classmate Holly Schroeder. “I hope we win. If we lose, oh well. We will do the best we can.”

The two girls make up half of the ISD Math Whizzes, ISD’s first middle school team to enter

a national math competition for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The National Technical Institute for the Deaf hosted the event April 5-7 on its campus in Rochester, New York.

The ISD Math Whizzes participated in three of five events: the team round, where the Whizzes worked 10 problems in 45 minutes; the sprint round, working 30 problems in 40 minutes and the target round, where individuals work 8 multi-step problems in 24 minutes.

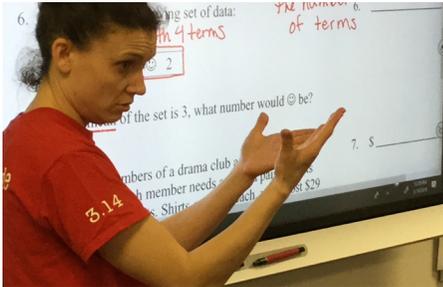
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**Hoodie + brains = confidence** – Even before the Whizzes got to strut their smart stuff in New York, they were learning how to make team decisions, demonstrated by their quick agreement to the team hoodie design. Left to right: Eric Yepez Morales, Jenessa Patten, Kalista Nipper, Holly Schroeder and teacher Ashely Villaverde.

# Math whizzes

Continued from front



"The math team did a fabulous job for their first year," said Villaverde (above).

Highest scoring teams advanced to additional team and individual rounds. The competition's problems are used from the Math Counts curriculum.

Students met with middle school math teacher Ashley Villaverde during second trimester weekly, reviewing math applications and practicing solving problems as a team. They found strengths and areas where more study was needed.

Villaverde was realistic for this first year. "My goal was for the students to embrace the overall experience," she said. "We want to see our students grow in their confidence and maturity, which will lead to successful post-secondary education, too."

Financing for the experience was provided through the team's families, Sertoma Club, educational funds and a \$2,500 classroom grant through the Iowa School for the Deaf Foundation. ■

**You can provide more experiences for ISD students like this one. See the Omaha Gives information in this issue.**

## It's a Bing Thing

Monthly Deaf activities are organized in the dorm by residential counselors Heath Focken and Jodyann Nipper. According to Focken, the activities encourage students to "celebrate themselves being Deaf or hard of hearing and appreciate the advantages they have."

The concept of Deaf Bing was explored one month as an activity. The movie, *Hedy & Heidi*, was used to demonstrate the concept. Explains Focken, "Deaf Bing basically means 'deaf tend.' Deaf Bing is the Deaf community's way of showcasing mannerisms and phrases that Deaf people tend to do or say, i.e., flicking lights to get someone's attention. It can also be humorous, like knocking off one's glasses while signing."

Other awareness activities in the dorm have included board games with discussion as to what made the games accessible, a presentation about deaf slang in ASL (that are completely absent from English) and posters of famous people who are deaf hung in the dorms.

The May event will introduce De'VIA (Deaf View/Image Art) to students. Younger ISD students will create De'VIA art on giant canvases and high school students can create individual works. De'VIA art explained [here](#).



**Now that Joseph Josselyn has your attention... click [here](#) for more Deaf Bing examples.**

## Honorable mention earned



Congratulations to sophomores Jessie Murphy and Ashley Schroeder who earned honorable mention status earlier this school year in the annual National Literary Competition. This annual contest is sponsored by

Gallaudet's Youth Programs and Phi Kappa Zeta.

Murphy and Schroeder were students in Megan Shama's English class when they were given an independent assignment "where they could write about whatever they wanted," said Shama. She provided feedback on ideas and writing and submitted the works.

"Both students are very creative and worked hard on writing and editing their submissions. They are very deserving of praise and recognition," said Shama.

**Click [here](#) for the full story and the students' works, or visit the [iowaschoolforthe deaf.org](#) Bobcat Prowler section.**

# Des Moines Schools; ISD partner for event

The largest extended learning program to date was held April 6 in Des Moines.

Iowa School for the Deaf's Extended Learning program worked with teachers of the deaf from Des Moines Public School's Deaf Education program to host the Signing and Saying Symposium at the Des Moines Science Center.

Students rotated through different stations, such as emotions, the inner workings of the ear, what is sound, and what provisions or adaptations are available to them.

Kevin Boyce and Heath Focken from the ISD dormitories staffed the emotion station.

"Rather than just answer questions and talk about their emotions, we got the students to use their whole bodies in this station, playing games that challenged them to control emotions through facial expressions," said Boyce. "We asked them to come up with one positive feeling they'd like to share with the world, and another that they'd like to shred and remove from their heart."

"ISD staff worked closely with Des Moines Public Schools' teachers of the deaf and really challenged the kids to think deeper about their feelings and emotions...you'd find us on the floor with students working one-on-one helping them express themselves like they've never been able to do before."

## Successful Courtships



The Class of 2019 initiated a 6-on-6-volleyball tournament and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament in March as fundraisers.

Class sponsor Megan Shama noted, "We (the teams) ranged from very competitive to a few people out having a good time on the court." She and co-class sponsor Scott Versch offer their gratitude to those who supported the events, including the fans.

### ISD staff got game

Seven volleyball teams entered, with a team featuring ISD staff John Cool and Megan Giaffoglionone taking first place. Seven teams also entered the basketball tournament, with the three-player ISD staff team of Jaymes Haar, Maurice Abenchuchan Jr., and Shama earning first place.

Profits will pay for a mural to be painted on the football field concession stand (class gift). Profits will also be used for a senior trip to the Mall of America in late May.

Tournaments are planned again for next year possibly for spring and fall as a fundraiser for the Class of 2020.



About 100 students in central Iowa attended the collaborative

**How ya feeling?— ISD dorm lead worker Kevin Boyce and residential counselor Heath Focken staffed the Signing and Saying emotion station at the Des Moines Science Center in early April. Student participants were from the Des Moines area.**



**Future  
is so  
Bright**

The transition staff has been busy taking high school students to business education trips to provide exposure to some local career possibilities as well as college classes. Check them out at the ISDOFFICIAL Facebook page [HERE](#).

## Service and smiles after hours

Iowa School for the Deaf has long had its own version of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, in the form of Boys Club and Pixies (for girls). The clubs meet after school twice a month, combining service with fun activities. Elementary teachers serve as sponsors.

Megan Jones, who sponsors Boys Club with Sara Planck, said some of their activities this year have been to learn their pledge, buried treasure game, decorate homecoming athletes' lockers, visit to Pioneer Trail Pumpkin Patch, make cards and treats for Veterans/visit them and distribute, make Christmas gifts, and Valentines.

In March, the group met with middle school science teacher Justin Cyboron for a paper plane



**ISD Boys Club members enjoyed a trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo in April. Their last activity will be a picnic.**

science activity. The club will wrap up with a picnic.

Nine girls in grades 3rd– 6th are in Pixies this year. “One of our year-long projects has been to make holiday cards for people who are deaf and mail them,” said Kate Kasal, who sponsors Pixies with Jane Gradoville.

“The girls enjoy making crafts at the monthly meetings they can take back and hang in their bedrooms. We have had game days and took one afternoon to paint each other’s fingernails,” said Kasal.

End-of-the-year activities will be a trip to a trampoline park and another to Dream Playground at Manawa State Park.

POTTAWATTAMIE GIVES!

# May 22

Presented by AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK PottawattamieGives.org Powered by Omaha Community Foundation

**Iowa School for the Deaf Foundation** will again participate in the area’s largest day of giving on May 22. This year’s donations are earmarked for mini classroom grants at ISD (that made the Math Whiz trip possible). Watch your email and ISD Facebook page for details in mid-May. Thank you for considering a gift.

## Bobcat store

The online store is open again! Order new ISD clothing until May 19, with delivery early June.

Click **HERE**.



Preschooler Cyrus Lagen looks amazed when school assistant Meredith Sulentic explains the life cycle of a plant.

## From the classroom

Students in Roxie Stevens' current events class have written about recent campus activities. Click the links at each story or go to [iowaschoolforthe deaf.org](http://iowaschoolforthe deaf.org) and scroll to the Bobcat Prowler.

### Family:

#### Jesse's communication struggles

by *Damien Holste*



**HOLSTE** Jesse Dalley entered the optimist speech contest to try to win the scholarship award. This scholarship award could help him with his future plans after graduation. Click [here](#) for the rest of the story.

#### Highlight during the high school football season

by *Jayden Kohl*



**KOHL** This month, several high school students are giving their Optimist speeches in order to win the scholarship awards. Click [here](#) for the rest of the story.

#### Fabulous 4 kids attend math contest

by *Jayden Kohl*

Eric Yopez-Morales, Jenessa Patten, Holly Schroeder and Kali Nipper went to the middle school math contest at RIT in Rochester, New York for two days in early April. Click [here](#) for the rest of the story.

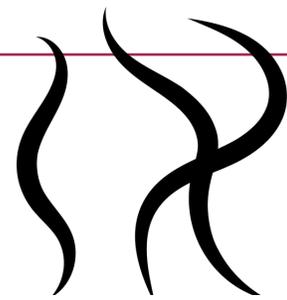
#### A great activity to participate in

by *Angel Torres*



**TORRES** As part of the requirement, various high school students participate in the Optimist speech contest and the end goal is to collect scholarship awards. Click [here](#) for the rest of the story.

## Letting off STEAM



The classroom adjacent to the Adam Leitch Greenhouse has been repurposed as a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) room, complete with new paint. Students use the area after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**“There are thousands of current and potential jobs and career paths in these domains - and the world and its demands continue to evolve,”** said Taryn Peterson, ISD's student life advisor. “The Student Life program wanted to do our part in providing exposure and education to our students in these areas so they can get a little taste of what their future could look like.”

This program was designed for upper elementary/early middle school students, who were too old for the after school We Explore our Environment program, and too young for athletics. Peterson plans STEAM activities along with residential counselor Heath Focken (a biology major). Peterson notes, “I am super into technology and the arts. **So I can only hope our greek cred rubs off a bit on our kids- since they are our future!**”

Some projects have included:

- geometric art with shapes
- map out world landmarks and recreating with Legos
- test structural integrity of bridges, built with toothpicks, dry spaghetti, marshmallows
- sailboats from paper- powered through water with dishsoap
- miniature marble run/pachinko games with household items

Future plans may include aquaponics (where fish and plants grow in a symbiotic environment), disassembling and reassembling old computers and video editing (think Bobcat video news). ■

### At ISD, we take our four square seriously.

Visit the auditorium sometime, and see the ginormous squares

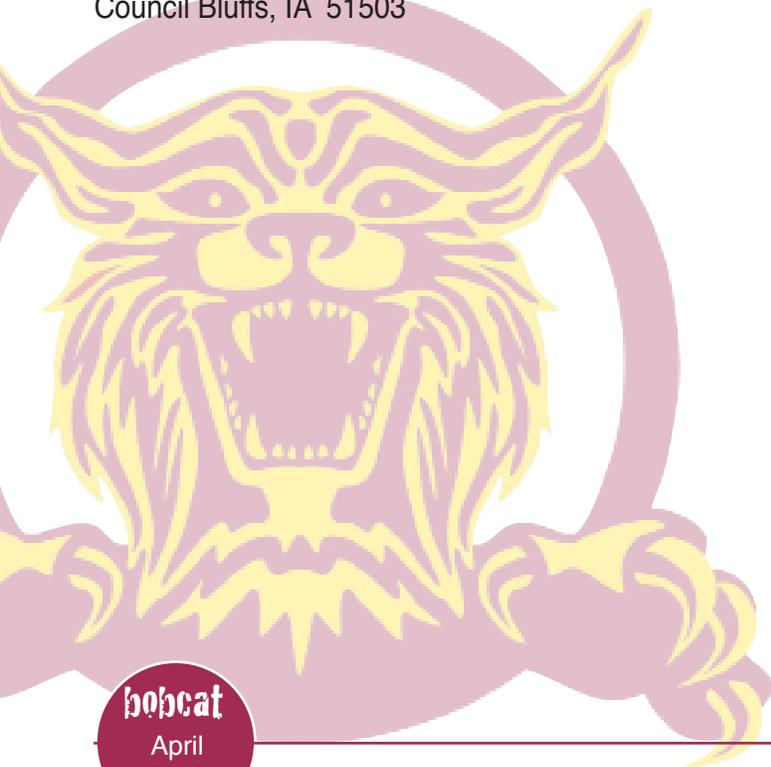
that become friendly battle-grounds.

We've taken it to a new level this year, with Nine Square, played with the ball overhead.





3501 Harry Langdon Boulevard  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503



**bobcat**  
April  
2019

## Pi Kappa Nu ISD Boys fraternity

The boys dorm knows all about brotherhood.

It has even started a fraternity “to teach them how to be gentlemen,” said the group’s leader, residential counselor Maurice Abenchuchan Jr.

Abenchuchan noted the organization also teaches the boys they have a responsibility to contribute something back to the community, “yet have fun and develop a bond with their guy friends,” he added.

The fraternity brothers have been spending quality time together by going out to eat, hiking, playing games, and meeting.

“I can see the boys’ self-esteem and confidence are growing; they are learning how to support and encourage their peers in the way friends should,” said Abenchuchan. ■



**It’s Greek to us** – All high school boys living in the dorm can be part of Pi Kappa Nu. These three members sacrificed part of their lunch break for a quick photo. Left to right: TJ Nipper, Angel Torres and Jorge Yopez Morales.

One Pi Kappa Nu activity was painting the Greek letters that hang in the entrance to their dorm wing.